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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/580,021

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TU X

ART UNIT

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2618

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/580,021	ZHAO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TU X. NGUYEN	2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5 and 7-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Black (7130282).

Regarding claim 1, Black discloses a private instant communications processing element (see fig.2, element 218) for use in conjunction with a first carrier network (see col.6 lines 16-30), the first carrier network providing wireless access to a first plurality of wireless user devices, the first plurality of wireless user devices comprising at least one first private user device, and being configured to route signals from the at least one first private user device to the private instant communications processing element (see fig.3), the private instant communications processing element being adapted to: receive instant communications signals from the at least one first private user device via the first carrier network; perform instant communications signal processing on the instant communications signals for the at least one first private user device and to transmit instant communications signals to the at least one first private user device via the first carrier network (see fig.3).

Regarding claim 2, Black discloses assign a generic identifier for the at least one first private user device to be included in a carrier network delivered instant communications session; generate a combined signal for the at least one first private user device to be included in the carrier network delivered instant communications session, and to transmit the combined signal to the carrier network with the generic identifier for inclusion as an input to the network delivered carrier instant communications session (see col.8 lines 51-62, col.16 lines 55-66).

Regarding claims 3, 8 and 14, Black discloses the combined signal is transmitted to a PoC (push-to-talk over cellular) server within the carrier network where the combined signal is treated as coming from a single user (see col.6 lines 20-21).

Regarding claims 4 and 17, Black discloses in further conjunction with a second carrier network, the second carrier network providing wireless access to a second plurality of user devices, the second plurality of user devices comprising at least one second private user device, and being configured to route signals from the at least one second private user device to the private instant communications processing element, wherein the private instant communications processing element is further adapted to: receive signals from the at least one second private user device via the second carrier network; perform instant communications processing on signals received from the at least one first private user device and the at least one second private user device to produce instant communications signals for transmission to the at least one first private user device and to produce instant communications signals for transmission to the at least one second private user device (see col.21 lines 6-20).

Regarding claims 5 and 20, Black discloses the first plurality of user devices comprises at least one first regular user device, and the second plurality of user devices comprises at

least one second regular user device (see col.10 lines 26-31), adapted to: assign a first generic user identifier appearing as a first single user within a first instant communications session established by the first carrier network and to assign a second generic user identifier appearing as a second single user within a second instant communications session established by the second carrier network; combine all second regular user device signals and all first and second private user device signals into a first combined signal and sending the first combined signal to a first carrier instant communications processing element of the first carrier network which in turn sends it to first regular user devices via the first carrier network using the first generic identifier; combine all first regular user device signals and all the first and second private user device signals into a second combined signal and sending the second combined signal to a second carrier instant communications processing element of the second carrier network which in turn sends it to second regular user devices via the second carrier network using the second generic identifier; combine signals from the first carrier instant communications processing element of the first carder network and the second carrier instant communications processing element of the second carrier network into a third combined signal and sending the third combined signal to first private user devices via the first network and to the second private user devices via the second network (see col.8 lines 51-62).

Regarding claim 7, Black discloses provide enhanced security features for the at least one first private user device (see col.10 line 65 through col.11 line 4).

Regarding claims 9 and 15, Black discloses the instant communications signals comprise half-duplex communications (see col.1 lines 54-55).

Regarding claims 10 and 16, Black discloses the instant communications signals comprise instant text messaging (see col.11 lines 50-51, see fig.2 element 228).

Regarding claims 11-12 and 22, Black discloses a GLMS (group list management server), a presence server and a PoC server (col.5 lines 7-25, col.6 lines 20-21).

Regarding claim 13, Black discloses a system comprising: a first carrier network delivering wireless access to first regular user devices and first private user devices, and comprising a first CICIP (carrier instant communications processing element) adapted to deliver a first instant communications session in respect of a plurality of input signals; a PICP (private instant communications processing element) adapted to combine instant communications signals from at least one first private user device into a first combined generic signal for inclusion as one input to the first instant communications session delivered by said first carrier network (see fig.2, col.8 lines 51-62).

Regarding claim 18, Black discloses the PICP receiving a request from one of the at least one first private user device containing a user identification and containing invitees comprising other private users and/or regular users; sending an invitation to any private users identified in the request via the first carrier network; receiving acceptances or rejections from private users of the invitation and adding private users to a list of private users for the instant communications session; assigning a generic identifier for the private users on the instant communications session; sending the invitation to regular invitees via the carrier instant communications processing element containing the generic identifier and identifiers of the regular invitees; the carrier instant communications processing element establishing the instant

communications session including the generic identifier and the regular invitees that accepted the invitation (see col.10 line 65 through col.11 line 4).

Regarding claim 19, Black discloses receiving a request from one of the private user devices containing a user identification and containing invitees comprising other private users; sending an invitation to any private users identified in the request via the first carrier network; receiving acceptances or rejections of the invitation from the private users and adding private users to a list of users for the instant communications session (see col.10 line 65 through col.11 line 4, col.16 lines 4-24).

Regarding claim 21, Black discloses a wireless user device having wireless access via a carrier network, the wireless user device comprising: a regular instant communications client adapted to participate in carrier network delivered instant communications sessions; a private instant communications client adapted to participate in instant communications sessions via the carrier network through a private instant communications processing element (see fig.2, col.10 lines 26-31).

Regarding claim 23, Black discloses wherein the private instant communications client will not release private information related to the instant communication sessions that the private instant communications client participates in to the carrier network while a regular instant communications client in the same device also concurrently participates in a communication session (see col.8 lines 51-62, col.10 lines 26-31).

Regarding claim 24, Black discloses a computer readable medium having processor executable instructions stored thereon for execution by a wireless user device, the processor executable instructions (see col.23 lines 3-17) comprising: a regular instant communications

client adapted to participate in carrier network delivered instant communications sessions; a private instant communications client adapted to participate in instant communications sessions via the carrier network through a private instant communications processing element (see fig.2, col.10 lines 26-31).

Regarding claim 25, Black discloses a system of providing a PoC communication session including private user devices and regular user devices in which signals of the private user devices are included in the PoC communication session in a manner that hides identities of the private user devices (see col.6 lines 20-21, col.10 lines 26-31, col.10 line 65 through col.11 line 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black (7130282) in view of Yi et al. (US Patent 6498787).

Regarding claim 6, Black fails to disclose a number of participants behind the first generic user identifier to the first carrier instant communications processing element of the first carrier network for billing purpose.

Yi et al. disclose a number of participants behind the first generic user identifier to the first carrier instant communications processing element of the first carrier network for billing

purpose (see col.25 lines 6-8). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Black with the above teaching of Yi et al. in order to provide billing user based on user'ID.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed Tu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7883.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban, can be reached at (571) 272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Tu X Nguyen/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2618

6/13/08